ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1964

ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1964

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rothbury Rural District which relates to the year 1964.

The vital statistics for the district show a few minor variations from the previous year.

The total population was slightly up and the birth rate rose somewhat.

For the third successive year, there were no infant deaths. The overall death rate was also lower than the previous year, but the established pattern of the causes of death showed little variation. The majority of deaths being due to heart lesions, vascular lesions of the nervous system and malignant causes.

Of the infectious diseases, measles accounted for most of the notifications; 15 cases occurred during the year. There were two recorded instances of Dysentery and one of Food Poisoning. These figures probably give very little indication of the true extent of these illnesses, as minor examples are often not notified. There were three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, whereas in the previous year there was only one. This disease still smoulders on, despite the enormous advances which have been made in treatment and detection. The small number of cases which occur each year, represents the hard core of the illness which is proving extremely difficult to eradicate, and it will probably be many years before tuberculosis is completely removed from the community.

The immunisation and vaccination rate for the district is reasonably satisfactory.

The Public Health Inspector in his report, lists the sanitary circumstances of the district.

It is satisfactory to note the steady number of standard and discretionary improvement grants which are given. These all help to improve the housing standards in the district.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act became law during the last year. This was a needed item of legislation, particularly in the commercial centres in the country. Naturally the number of premises affected in a Rural District such as Rothbury are very small, nevertheless, this Act is useful in establishing good working conditions for employees in these premises.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, and the Public Health Inspector for their interest and support for the past year.

I have the honour to be
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

John Uldemark

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,029 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 11.

The rateable value was ~~£120,049~~ £148,440 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £582.

The estimated mid-year population was 5,370 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	50	40	90
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Totals	52	41	93

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.31
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor	20.42
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.22

Still Births			
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	10.63
Total live and still births	94

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	-
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births	-

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	-

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	-

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
	35	31	66
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population			12.29
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			10.20
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			-
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			-
Deaths from Cancer			13

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1	3
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1	8	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	9	3	12
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	-	5	5
Other Circulatory Disease	2	2	4
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	2	3	5
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	35	31	66

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 and 1949-1964

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England and Wales
1919	2	26.00	89
1920	8	80.10	80
1921	6	60.00	83
1922	1	12.00	77
1923	2	24.00	69
1924	2	25.00	75
1925	1	12.18	75
1926	3	33.30	70
1927	6	95.00	69
1928	7	96.00	65
1929	-	-	74
1930	3	62.50	60
1931	1	12.60	66
1932	3	60.00	65
1933	1	16.10	64
1934	1	12.80	59
1935	7	111.00	57
1936	1	14.08	59
1937	1	12.50	58
1938	-	-	53
1949	4	45.90	32
1950	2	26.60	30
1951	2	23.20	30
1952	-	-	28
1953	1	9.50	27
1954	-	-	25
1955	3	42.25	24.9
1956	1	11.36	24.9
1957	1	12.50	23.1
1958	-	-	22.5
1959	2	20.20	20.7
1960	-	-	21.7
1961	3	36.58	21.4
1962	-	-	21.4
1963	-	-	20.9
1964	-	-	20.9

POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1919	5,600	1932	5,660	1954	5,580
1920	5,507	1933	5,627	1955	5,560
1921	5,968	1934	5,712	1956	5,560
1922	5,963	1935	5,692	1957	5,520
1923	6,011	1936	5,687	1958	5,520
1924	6,093	1937	5,629	1959	5,510
1925	5,959	1938	5,561	1960	5,510
1926	5,877	1939-48	Not Published	1961	5,330
1927	5,877	1949	5,680	1962	5,330
1928	5,808	1950	5,679	1963	5,320
1929	5,888	1951	5,507	1964	5,370
1930	5,767	1952	5,574		
1931	5,615	1953	5,567		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	2
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	15
Pneumonia	6
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	1
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION

	Primary Immunisation								Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	8
Diphtheria and Tetanus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	5	2	9
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	29	47	5	1	-	-	2	84	-	9	45	43	8	69	-	174
Totals	30	47	5	1	-	-	2	85	-	9	45	45	8	77	7	191

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

North No. 2 Area

	Number Vaccinated during Period						Number Re-vaccinated					
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Alnwick U.D.	11	12	14	1	-	38	-	-	2	2	-	4
Alnwick R.D.	8	24	22	4	-	58	-	-	1	10	-	11
Amble U.D.	-	31	19	1	4	55	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rothbury R.D.	22	6	6	-	-	34	-	-	1	3	-	4
Totals	41	73	61	6	4	185	-	-	4	15	1	20

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

North No. 1 and 2 Areas

The following table shows the number of persons vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1964.

	Number of Persons
3 doses - Oral Vaccine	1,040
Booster dose oral after two Salk injections	34
Booster dose oral after three Salk injections	1,179
Booster dose oral after three Oral doses	125

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WATER SUPPLIES

Since 1962, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company have been responsible for the supply and distribution of water in this district. Regular sampling is carried out to ensure wholesome supplies.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains is set out in the following table. All are supplied direct to the house.

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Alwinton	17	59
Brinkburn	23	62
Cartington	3	9
Elsdon	49	134
Harbottle	45	122
Hepple	17	58
Longframlington	232	577
Rothbury	665	1788
Thropton	96	245
Tosson	17	42
Whittingham	77	230
Totals	1241	3326

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

The disposal works at Longframlington, Whittingham, Wingates and the Council houses at Thropton, continue to function satisfactorily. Constant care and maintenance is however necessary at the small works to achieve satisfactory results owing to the considerable variation in the rate of flow to the works.

The plans and details of the modification and extension to the works and sewers at Rothbury have now been prepared and will be submitted to the Ministry in 1965.

Your Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare a scheme of sewers and sewage disposal for Thropton and this is expected in 1965.

The plans of the proposed works at Hepple have been submitted to the Ministry. Work should commence in 1965 and be completed before the Spring of 1966.

HOUSING

During the year, 4 houses were completed at Thrunton, to replace the aluminium houses, which are to be demolished.

Work commenced on 12 houses at Whittingham, and these are scheduled for completion in October, 1965.

Land has been acquired for 4 old persons houses at Thropton. Work is to commence approximately April, 1965.

The Minister granted the Council's Appeal for the use of waste land in Church Street, Longframlington, and plans have been drawn up to build 4 old persons houses.

The number of Council Houses remains at 290.

Seven private houses were built during the year, three being from conversions.

Four houses were demolished at Blaxter.

Twenty three houses were made fit during the year as a result of informal action.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958
Housing Purchase and Housing Act 1959
Housing Act 1961

A. Discretionary Grants

Applications submitted during the year	27
Applications rejected	Nil
Applications approved	27
Approx. average grant per house 1964	£253
Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme	337

B. Standard Grants

	During the year	Total to date
Number of houses for which grants have been made	3	27
Number of houses so provided with		
a) bath or shower	3	19
b) wash hand basin	3	20
c) hot water supply	2	12
d) water closet	2	26
e) food store	2	12

Average grant per house 1964 £71.

In addition two houses received grants under the Hill Farming or Livestock Rearing Acts.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All properties in the district with the exception of some in the hills, have a weekly or fortnightly collection. The service operates smoothly. Two seven cubic yard vehicles and five men are employed.

CARAVANS

The demand for sites shows no signs of abating. A new site to hold 60 was opened by a private owner at Whitton Glebe, Rothbury. This should be a welcome addition when fully established.

FOOD

The Council is able to maintain 100% inspection of meat, as required by the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. Mr. D. J. Macpherson, M.R.C.V.S. gives the necessary cover in my absence.

During the year 2,197 carcases were examined (525 beast, 148 pigs, 1,524 sheep).

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949					
	Type of Property - Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (Including Business Premises)	Total of Columns 1, 2 and 3	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	12	1864	118	1994	241
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	-	12	3	15	1
(b) Survey under the Act	12	-	-	12	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	-	16	16	-
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	129	32	10	171	8
4. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	8	12	3	23	1
(b) Mice	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	8	12	3	23	1
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	129	32	10	171	8

FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	10	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Totals	23	13	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	-	1	-

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, brought into force during the year makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these kind of premises.

Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of Registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	8	8	-
Retail Shops	22	22	12
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	1	-
Catering establishments open to public, canteens.	6	6	6
Fuel Storage Depots	1	1	1
Totals	38	38	19

Analysis of Persons Employed

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	20
Retail Shops	72
Wholesale departments, warehouses	3
Catering establishments open to the Public	25
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage Depots	1
TOTAL	121
Total Males	38
Total Females	83